

Editor's note: As a Bicentennial project we have attempted to locate the oldest continuous Shorthorn herd still registering and holding a membership in the American Shorthorn Association today. We used the names submitted to us by breeders and extend our thanks for your enthusiasm in this project.

Because of mail service and also due to the fact that in the late 1800's registration papers were not as important as they are today, many breeders did not register calves although they may have had an all-registered cow herd.

We used the Herd Book as a guideline since these dates would be very difficult to document otherwise. Furthermore, we set as our interpretation of a registered breeder to mean a breeder of Shorthorn cattle who was registering offspring. Therefore, you may find some discrepancy in dates from when some of these breeders actually bought their first Shorthorns.

In our research, we found a number of herds who have been in the same family for many years. Following is a list of just a few of the oldest ones who certainly deserve an honorable mention.

OUR HATS ARE OFF

1880	Retzlaff Bros. Lincoln, Nebr.	1883	Sam Phelps Monmouth, Ill.
1882	Bradley Eisinger Waynesburg, Penn.	1883	Clyde Cann Peopone, Ill.
1883	Wayne Neely Frederick, Md.	1884	Clyde Harlow Tipton, Ind.
1883	Frank T. Wilson Lewisburg, W.V.		

The herd is located, of course at Greenfield, Ia.

TODD FARM OLDEST HERD

By Sherman Berg

"Blood will tell!" is a saying among cattleman indicating that bloodlines and an animals ancestry are very important. The same is true of people, too. Generally everyone is proud of their heritage and many times pattern their lives and lifestyle after that of their parents or grandparents.

This pride in one's heritage is especially evident during the many Bicentennial celebrations staged across the country this summer.

The Todd Shorthorn Farm, Fayette, Mo., has a notable heritage in that it is the oldest continuous registered Shorthorn operation in existence today. Through nominations submitted from breeders, Shorthorn Country researched the Herd Books of the American Shorthorn Association and found that Chenault Todd registered his first animal in 1873 making a total of 103 years of registering Shorthorns. He had two sons, Chenault and Wallace, who assisted him with the farm.

Following the father's death in 1920, Chenault, Jr., continued with the tradition of Shorthorns on the farm. Presently the owners are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Humphrey. The women are nieces of Chenault and daughters of Wallace. Today, three generations and 103 years later, Humphrey manages the operation and hopes that the Todd Shorthorn Farm will be able to continue its Shorthorn tradition for many years to come.

The title of the majority of the farm is the original Government Land Patents dated 1822 to 1826. No abstract has ever been written for the land since it has never been sold and no lien has ever been drawn against it.

When driving in at the farm, the majestic house with its colonial southern look tends to give an air of the old South.

Chenault Todd, Sr., purchased his foundation females in 1871 from George Bean, Thomas McDonald and Abram Renick who were reputable Kentucky breeders. He continued to build the quality and quantity of the herd until today they have basically four cow families which stem from the foundation herd which are Rose Leaf, Nonpareil, Secret and Red Empress. In the 100 cow unit they have centered their program on these lines and generally have not introduced any new lines to the herd.

A linebreeding program has been practiced at the Todd Farm when in the 1940's and 50's they used Scotsdale Armour and Cluny Merry Monarch and sons of these in their program, thereby, firmly establishing color and type.

Repeatedly throughout the years every owner of the herd required good big beef bulls. For instance, in the 1900's their herd sire weighed 2800 pounds.

Although continually strong fans of the shows, the Todds have not done much traveling with their cattle other than consigning to sales. They have concentrated more on producing high quality individuals that suited the needs of their customers.

A shrewd judge of cattle and people, Chenault, Sr., believed in doing his own work to the best of his ability. He set high standards for himself and his operation. Many of these requirements have been instilled in each succeeding generation and still remain today. Again blood will tell! The standards a person sets for himself are often implanted by ancestors and are naturally upheld like in the Todd family.

Some of the cattle they sold in the 1950's and 60's have provided a lasting influence in a number of other herds including Hart Farm, Thieman Polled Shorthorns, Nold Weston Shorthorns and Kinnaber Stock Farm.

See Todd Page 98 (Nothing of importance)



